

American Indian Politics and Policy
GO224
Fall 2008
Office Hours: MW 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
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We would strongly recommend that the United States government face the Indian problem squarely. That it acknowledge to the nations of the world the international status of Indian nations as perhaps among the smallest and weakest nations of the world but yet as nations with an inherent right to political and cultural existence comparable to any other nation.

Vine Deloria, Jr. (Sioux), *Behind the Trail of Broken Treaties: An Indian Declaration of Independence*, 1974

The United States has a unique legal and political relationship with Indian tribes... as provided in the Constitution of the United States, treaties, and Federal statutes...I reiterated my Administration's adherence to a government-to-government relationship and support for tribal sovereignty and self-determination earlier this year in Executive Order 13336.

President Bush, September 23, 2004

Course Description:

An examination of contemporary American Indian politics and policy. Major topics include the history of federal Indian policy, the nature of tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, tribal, federal and state jurisdiction in Indian country, taxation, land claims, gaming and Indian Child Welfare Act.

Required Texts:

- American Indian Law-In a Nut Shell, 4th edition (AIL)
William Canby, Jr. (Required)
- Documents of United States Indian Policy (DOCS)
Francis Paul Prucha, ed. (Required)
- American Indians and U.S. Politics: A Companion Reader (Meyer)
John M. Meyer (Required)
- The Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian (Alexie)
Sherman Alexie (Required)
- Genocide of the Mind: New Native American Writing (Genocide)
Ed. MariJo Moore (Recommended)

Additional Readings will be handed out in class (HO)

Course Requirements

1. Attendance is required. Participation in class discussion is expected. (15%)
2. One 3-5 page discussion paper on issues or ideas gleaned from a particular week's readings. E-mail copies of your paper to students *before* class as you will be leading the class discussion. (20%)
3. Two exams (20% and 20% respectively)
4. One 8 – 10 page policy paper analyzing...(25%)
 - a. a past or current federal Indian policy issue and its impact on the Indian nation, tribe, pueblo, band, village you have chosen to study
 - b. the political, religious, legal, social or cultural strategies the First Nation employed in response to that policy
 - c. the consequences of that policy for the tribal nation you are studying *and* other First Nations

Course Standards

Attendance. It counts. Poor attendance, defined as 2 or more absences, will result in your final grade being lowered. Tardiness counts as an absence.

Participation. I assume that if you stay in the course you agree to carefully prepare all class assignments, come to class prepared, actively listen, take meaningful notes, and thoughtfully participate in class discussions.

Late Papers. I don't accept them except under extraordinary circumstances and then only with prior permission

Academic Integrity. Do your own work.

Equity. I assume that if you stay in the course you have agreed to the terms of the course as outlined above.

This syllabus is a "living and flexible document." I reserve the right to amend the syllabus, reading lists and assignments.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics and Assignments</u>	<u>Readings</u>
9/3	4 Principles of American Government	
9/5	Indian Law, Indian Tribes, Indian Identification Policy	AIL: ch. I Genocide: p. 77+ HO: Federal Indian Identification Policy
9/8-12	History Matters	AIL: ch. II Great Law of Peace http://www.indigenouspeople.net/iroqcon.htm Articles of Confederacy, US Constitution Meyer: I DOCS:12, 13, 18, 19, 29, 30, 33, 35, 40, 42, 44, 45, 50, 54, 56, 68, 69, 70, 83, 85, 93, 97, 98, 101, 102, 104, 105, 106, 134, 141, 145, 146, 148, 149, 151, 157, 160, 162, 164, 165, 176, 182, 183, 187, 194, 204, 206, 221, 223, 229

9/15	Elusive Tribal Sovereignty	AIL: Ch. V
9/17		
9/19	Tribal Governments	AIL: IV HO: O'Brien Tribal Governments
9/22	Federalism, Congress and Indian Tribes	Meyer, III, VIII
9/24	Executive and Indian Tribes	AIL: III, Meyer, IX, X, DOCS: 228
9/26	Judiciary and Indian Tribes	Meyer: XI
9/29	Treaties	AIL: VI, HO: <i>American Indian Treaties</i> (Prucha) http://digital.library.okstate.edu/kappler/Vol2/Toc.htm DOCS: 4 Treaty with Six Nations, 1784 DOCS: 43 Treaty with the Choctaw 1830 HO: Treaty with the Delaware, 1778 HO: Treaty with the Creeks, 1814 DOCS: 70 Treaty with the Sioux, 1868 DOCS: 83 Abolition of Treaty Making
10/01	Resistance	DOCS: 157 HO: Trail of Broken Treaties 20 Points
10/03		Film: <i>In the Spirit of Crazy Horse</i>
10/6	Criminal Jurisdiction	AIL: VII, DOCS: 176, 221
10/8	Rape	HO: <i>Sexual Violence</i>
10/10	Domestic Violence	HO: <i>Domestic Violence</i>
10/13	Mid-Term Exam	
10/15	Civil Jurisdiction	AIL: VII
10/17	Indian Child Welfare Act	DOCS: 187
10/20	Public Law 280	DOCS: 147, 148 149,
10/22	New York State	DOCS: HO: New York State Indian Services
10/24	<i>Study Day</i>	
10/27	Taxation and Regulation	AIL: IX
10/29		HO: TBD
10/31	Seneca Nation of Indians	HO: NYS Case study
11/3	Tribal Economies	DOCS: 142, 269, 194, 199
11/5		HO: <i>Tribal Political Economy</i>
11/7		HO: TBD
11/10	Indian Gaming	DOCS: 201, 207
11/12		HO: <i>Indian Gaming</i>

<http://www.nigc.gov/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>

11/14

HO: TBD

11/17 Indian Lands

AIL: XII, DOCS: 175

11/19 Sacred lands

DOCS: 183, 204, 210, 226

11/21 Film

Kanesahsatake

11/24 Film

Kanesahsatake

12/1 Water Rights

AIL: XIV, DOCS: 130, 169, 141, 196

12/3 Film

Behind the Case of David Sohapp

12/5 Film

12/08 Alaska Natives

AIL: XIII, DOCS: 164, 225, 235

12/10 Film

Homeland